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C. REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during a telephone interview on August 17, 2004.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent claims, and have been amended to include limitations from previous dependent claims. As a result of these amendments, claims 3, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maffezzoni, United States Patent No. 6,289,426 (hereinafter Maffezzoni). Claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maffezzoni. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants teach and claim a method, system, and program product for duplicating a user environment in a first computer system to a second computer system. This is useful when a user moves from one system to another due to system changes or user relocation from one system to another system. As discussed in Applicants' specification, "user environment data includes [] the customizations and modifications made to the user's account as a result of the user's preferences or made so the user could better perform his or her job related tasks." (Applicants' specification, page 16, lines 13 – 16). As described in Applicants' specification beginning on page 18, line 20 and continuing through page 19, line 2, environment data includes the system parameters that "personalize" a user's computer system. This "personality" information is the "user and/or group selectable parameters, settings, and/or options used for customizing either a computer system, software, or firmware attributes."

Maffezzoni purports to teach an intelligent backup system (see Abstract). Maffezzoni's backup system allows a user to run his system, in the event of a hard disk crash, so that the user can continue working (col. 7, lines 13-22). Maffezzoni does not teach or suggest "duplicating a user environment in a first computer system to a second computer system," as taught and claimed by Applicants. Maffezzoni actually teaches away from Applicants' invention, as

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Maffezzoni explicitly states that its “intelligent Genesis backup protection system is only a *temporary fix*” (col. 29, lines 30-32, emphasis added). Maffezzoni is not concerned with duplicating a user’s computer environment when the user moves from one system to another. Rather, Maffezzoni is concerned with allowing a user to continue working in the event of a hard disk failure, thus preventing downtime productivity losses (col. 2, lines 55-61).

Maffezzoni does not teach or suggest several key elements of amended, independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Maffezzoni does not teach or suggest “collecting user environment data from the first computer system, the collecting performed by a computer program, and the user environment data including a printer definition, a network interface, a user password, and license information.” The Examiner points to col. 7, lines 13-22 as teaching aspects of this element, as the Examiner notes that Microsoft Office requires license information to operate. However, Applicants note that Maffezzoni merely mentions a user being able to use Microsoft Office. Maffezzoni does not make any mention of needing a license in order to use Microsoft Office. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that a license is needed, there is no teaching or suggestion of a computer program collecting this information for the user, as part of its process of collecting user environment data. It is possible that the user of Maffezzoni’s system needs to manually enter any needed license information before being allowed to use Microsoft Office. It is impossible to know for sure, as Maffezzoni doesn’t mention license information at all. Further, Maffezzoni does not discuss collecting any other type of environment data, including a printer definition, a network interface, or a user password, as claimed by Applicants in independent claims 1, 8, and 15.

Furthermore, Maffezzoni does not teach or suggest “storing the user environment data on a removable nonvolatile media,” “transporting the removable nonvolatile media from the first computer system to the second computer system,” “loading the removable nonvolatile media in a device capable of reading the media,” and “restoring the user environment data from the removable nonvolatile media to the second computer system.” In his discussion of claims 3 and 7 (and also claims 10, 14, 17, and 20), the Examiner admits that Maffezzoni does not disclose restoring the user environment onto a second computer system. The Examiner further admits that Maffezzoni does not disclose transporting the removable media from the first computer system to the second computer system. However, the Examiner relies upon Maffezzoni’s

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preferred use of Jaz drives, a portable storage medium, as making it obvious to restore the user's data on a second computer system. Applicants respectfully disagree. Just because Maffezzoni prefers that a portable storage medium be used as a backup disk drive, this does not overcome the significant deficiencies of Maffezzoni with regard to Applicants' claimed method, system, and program product. As discussed above, Maffezzoni explicitly states that its "intelligent Genesis backup protection system is only *a temporary fix*" (col. 29, lines 30-32, emphasis added). Maffezzoni is not concerned with duplicating a user's computer environment when the user moves from one system to another. Rather, Maffezzoni is concerned with allowing a user to continue working in the event of a hard disk failure, thus preventing downtime productivity losses (col. 2, lines 55-61).

Maffezzoni actually teaches away from collecting user environment data from a first computer system and then using this environment data to restore the user environment on a second computer system. As discussed above, user environment data includes the personalization and customization parameters that have been selected by a user. Applicants' method, system, and program product allow a user to move to a new computer system and still keep the "personality" of the user's previous system. As claimed in independent claims 1, 8, and 15, user environment data is collected for the user by a computer program. In contrast, Maffezzoni requires a user to select which software applications will be backed up. Only those applications selected by the user will be available when booting from the backup storage device (col. 7, lines 19-22). A system such as Maffezzoni's, where only selected applications are available after a hard disk crash, certainly teaches away from Applicants' system, where user environment data is collected from a first computer system, and this collecting is done for the user by a computer program, and then used to *restore that same user environment on a second computer system*.

Conclusion

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicants that the remaining claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request an early allowance of such claims.

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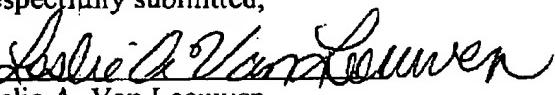
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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the Applicants' attorney listed below if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining questions or issues related to this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Leslie A. Van Leeuwen
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 42,196
Telephone: (512) 301-6738
Facsimile: (512) 301-6742

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